

GREAT EXPLOSION JARS
ALL NEW YORK, CAUSING
A LOSS OF MILLIONS IN
PROPERTY DESTRUCTION

SEVERAL MEN MISSING AND
MANY ARE IN HOSPITALS WITH
LITTLE CHANCE OF RECOVERY

Ammunition Intended for Entente Allies and Stored in Warehouse on Island in New York Bay Becomes Ignited and Terrible Disaster Follows; Panic Created in Metropolis at Early Hour of Morning. Men, Women and Children Running Frantically Into Streets in Night Clothes; Country Rocked for Miles Around by Force of Detonation; Child Dies of Shock; All Firemen Accounted for.

New York, July 20.—(Property loss estimated at \$25,000,000) was caused early today in a series of terrific explosions at the island of Rongerik, adjacent to the atolls allies and stored on Black Tom island, a small strip of land lying into New York bay off the tip of Manhattan. The explosion was a problematical tonnage. It will not be determined definitely until there has been opportunity to check up the workmen employed on the island and the cause of the explosion.

Two are known to be dead and at least two more are missing. Scores of persons were injured, some of them probably mortally.

Two long piles of cars were successfully removed from the danger zone before the rapidly spreading fire engulfed the balance.

It has been definitely determined just what the money loss will be. Some 40,000 tons of raw sugar valued at approximately \$2,400,000 is known to be lost. It is believed that the destruction of the warehouses destroyed will greatly increase this amount. There were no explosives stored in the warehouses.

Some of the cars destroyed were loaded with dynamite. It is possible that these may have been a source of danger, but for outside fire. Two other cars were

The detonations, which were felt in five states, began with a continuous rapid-fire of small shells, the blowing up of great quantities of dynamite, trinitrotoluene and other high explosives, followed by the bursting of thousands of shrapnel shells, which lit-

Thommas Money Loss.
Edmond L. MacKenzie, president of the National Storage company, declared tonight that the plant of his company at Tully, N. Y., was valued at \$7,000,000, while the contents of the plant probably were worth \$10,000,000. One of the warehouses, which remains intact, is filled with blankets.

merchandise valued at \$100,000. Besides the great quantity of raw sugar burned there were 74,960 lbs of tobacco, much matting from China and Japan and other merchandise. The loss to his company and the railroad, Mr Mackenzie said, was partly covered by insurance.

"As far as I have been able to ascertain,"

Early reports of heavy loss of life were impossible of verification, and the authorities ascertained the number of deaths probably would be small. It was said that among the first that of the wreckage it might be several days before the bodies of the victims could be recovered. After a personal investigation, said Mr. Blankenbue, "there apparently has not been a great loss of life. This undoubtedly was due to the fact that few persons live in the immediate vicinity of our plant. There were, of course, a number of private watchmen and firemen on the ground."

Cause Not Determined. The cause of the disaster had not been determined tonight. Officials of the National Storage company and the Lehigh valley railroad, which also suffered heavily through loss of

properly, declared however, that reports to them showed a fire started shortly after 1 o'clock this morning on a barge belonging to an independent towing company that had been moored alongside a dock used by the railroad company to transfer ammunition shipments from trains to sea-

explosions. Many men told thrilling stories of having been blown hundreds of feet over land and water.

Most of the sixty or more injured taken to Jersey City hospitals were struck by shrapnel, falling glass or debris. Nearly all were in the railroad yards or on craft moored near

The barge, it was said, was there without authority of either the railroad or the storage company. The officials refused to address the issue of the independent towing company, saying they were involved in a lawsuit that would determine the barge company's liability.

Warblers, chorusing in the branches were joined here by the first of the flock of Alder Flycatchers, a group of five. Black-throated blue song was heard, and the first of the "chirp" notes of the Blue Grosbeak. South of the 100-foot distance, a "chirp" note was heard.

Damage at Ellis Island.

At Bentley's first thought was to

When the loaded cars on the pier from the danger zone. He said that when he reached the end of the pier the barge was burning fiercely all over and the fire was beginning to communicate itself to some of the cars nearest the barge.

communicate itself to some of the cars nearest the target. along. Detectives were rushed to Malden Lane, the home of the jew-